

Revolution in Print. (Essay assignment, His 5250, Fall 2008)

Research paper will analyze the revolutionary moment of a particular year, and, probably, focusing on a particular subject, and compare it with a similar moment in another revolution (usually the French), and analyze it with modern theories. I suggest that you focus on the British Civil Wars and Interregnum, 1637-1653 in a historiographical and comparative perspective, using contemporary pamphlets, broadsides, plays, newspapers, etc., from Early English Books Online. But you may also consider 1679-1689 (and use. The one-year limitation is not absolute, but revolutions (to me) happen quickly and, in the 1640s, so too did printing.

- 1 Oct. **revolution assignment one due.** [Print pamphlet title-page and full-text citation for work printed between 1637 and 1653.]
- 8 Oct. **revolution assignment two due.** [Print out full-text citation to twenty works that you think might be useful to help answer the essay question, from one year between 1637 and 1653. You don't need to read the works, just the titles. Be ready to discuss why these titles seem revolutionary/useful]
- 22 Oct. **revolution assignment three due.** [Print out full-text citation (and photocopy printouts of two relevant pages from one work—enough for everyone in the course) to twenty works **on one subject** that you think might be useful to help answer the essay question, from one year between 1637 and 1653. Write a paragraph as to how this subject and these works might reveal a revolutionary moment.]
- 29 Oct. **revolution assignment four due.** [Print out and photocopy—enough for everyone in the seminar—two pages each from two pamphlets, and write a paragraph suggesting the revolutionariness (and limits thereof) of these pamphlets.]
- 5 Nov. **revolution assignment five due.** [Write two, double-spaced, pages on how your pamphlets suggest a revolutionary moment in your year. Attach a bibliography of primary sources.]
- 12 Nov. **Research introductory paragraph, bibliography, and outline due.**
- 3 Dec. **Critique of colleague's introduction, outline, and bibliography due.**
- 10 Dec. **TWELVE-MINUTE REPORTS (with five-minute critique from seminar); Research paper due.**
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When was the English/British Revolution? Research paper (original source research paper, 50% of total grade, typed, double-spaced) will analyze the revolutionary moment in one year. Pick one year and argue the nature of the revolutionary moment in that year. Was it a peasant revolt? An urban revolt? Part of a general crisis of the mid-seventeenth century? Religious? Social? Nationalist? How does it compare with other revolutionary moments (particularly in the French Revolution). Was are the “radical men”? In other words, use theories from at least three general works on revolution and compare your “moment” with at least one continental revolt to test its revolutionariness. Focus on one aspect/event of that year by using at least twelve books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers printed in that year (at least fifty relevant pages) as well as relevant secondary sources and reference works (draw theory from Zagorin, Marx and Engels, Tilly, Furet, te Brake, Hill, Parker, etc.). Focus on one aspect/event of that year—religious revolt, splits in the polity, appeals to social revolution, etc.—using at least twelve books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers printed in that year.

In other words, I'd like a sandwich paper. The opening paragraphs will review the secondary literature (and revolutionary theories) that are related to your argument. The middle section of the paper will examine primary sources (including relevant secondary works needed for context). The final section will suggest how those primary sources confirm some theorists and suggest how others are in need of revision, at least as with regards to the Glorious Revolution (or others that you examine). To find that Soboul has NO applicability to 1689 is not of much interest; finding connections and subtle revisions is of much more interest.